

# Press-Herald

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## Keep Community Healthy

Keeping your community a healthy place for business and industry is more important than a stack of four-color, fold-out brochures when it comes to attracting new investments, members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce were told this week.

Fierce competition for new plant and business investments has the field flooded with gimmicks and offers of short term benefits to a prospective investor, but most decisions are made on the basis of other factors, according to the manager of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's industrial development department.

The 15,000 organizations in the nation seeking such investors have to divide up about 700 new plants which are "up for grabs" each year, according to the development expert. It's a lesson which is worth remembering when someone comes along with a scheme to promote Torrance.

Keeping Torrance a healthy place in which to invest industrial and business capital and keeping the land available for such investments mean far more than wheel-spinning promotions. Proposals should be measured against this realization.

## Why Can't We Do It?

Once more the city appears headed toward the federal government, hands held out for some money.

This time, it's for beautification of Hawthorne Boulevard—and other areas of the city—and the expected gift ranges around \$45,000. And funds for some of the proposed work already have been budgeted by the city for the current fiscal year.

On several occasions in the recent past, we have pointed out some of the dangers we believe inherent in a request for federal funds. Proponents of the current plan will, no doubt, say the money is in Washington for the asking, while the city, at least for now, can't afford the project.

That may be true. But at the same time, we think there will soon be no reason for local government if every city goes running toward Washington, hand out, whenever a problem confronts the community.

We feel a little like the gal in that aspirin commercial:

But Uncle Sam, we'd rather do it ourselves.

## Morning Report:

If you're getting tired of reading about Viet Nam, I have hope for you. It's bugging the Russians even more. The war over there is being used now to judge all official positions.

Russia is about to pungle over \$100,000 to us because she cancelled a couple of American track meets. She dropped out to protest you know what. And Pravda, the Communist Party daily, after being down on the Beatles for years, has now switched. One of the Beatles had some unkind words about the fighting in Southeast Asia.

There's only one way out. Pravda can stage a Beatles concert in the Kremlin to raise the \$100,000. And hope the Beatles don't change their minds before the tickets are sold.

Abe Mellinkoff

## JAMES DORAIS

# Rail Line Running Near Capacity, Still in 'Red'

In recent years, as railroads have sought to discontinue unprofitable and outmoded passenger service, public hearings before the regulatory bodies empowered to decide the matter have followed a familiar pattern.

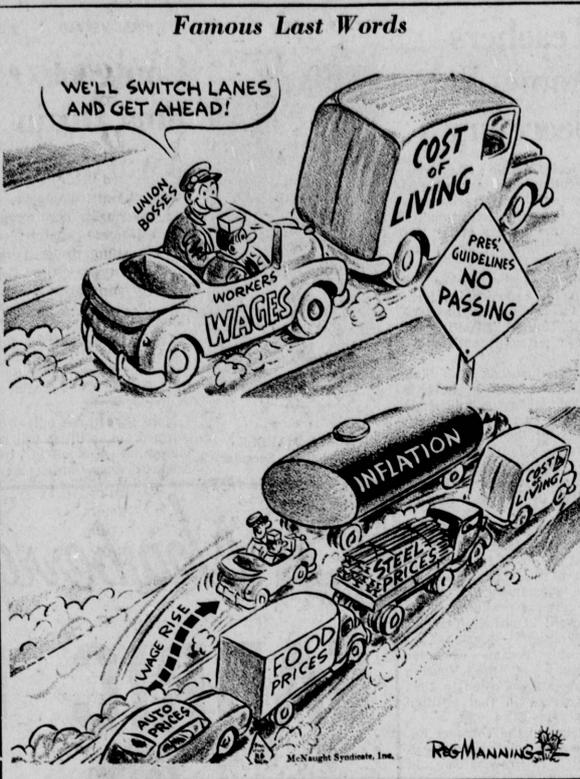
Most of the witnesses who appear to protest the discontinuance have travelled to the site of the hearing by airplane or automobile, thus proving the railroad's point that the passenger train in question can't compete any longer with the speed of the airplane which operates out of tax-subsidized airports, or the convenience of the modern auto which travels along tax-subsidized highways.

The few protesting witnesses who have travelled to the hearing by train are "train buffs" filled with nostalgia for the good old days when the iron horse was the fastest thing on wheels, and who feel that railroads, regardless of the amount of money they lose on passenger service and regardless of the effect that loss has on the road's ability to maintain and improve freight service, have an obligation to continue the passenger train for their particular pleasure.

Usually the hearings revolve around acrimonious debate as to whether or not the railroad has deliberately discouraged passenger travel by downgrading its service and whether or not ways and means can be found to keep the train going by increasing patronage.

Hearings on a very different passenger train discontinuance case will be held next month by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It involves the application of the Western Pacific Railroad Company to discontinue its crack California Zephyr between the Bay Area and Salt Lake City, via the scenic Feather River route.

In this case, there has been no loss of patronage. The Zephyr runs at near capacity during the summer months and at 75 per cent of capacity during the rest of the year. The railroad advertises extensively, provides excellent accommodations and food, and pledges to do so as long as it runs the train.



## FROM THE MAILBOX

# Slain Marine Knew Well Why He Fought in Asia

**Editor's Note:** The following letter was written by Marine PFC Mike H. Kessel Jr. to the editor of the Dickinson, N.D., Press in late 1965 when the Kessel family lived in Dickinson. PFC Kessel was killed Sept. 3 in action against Viet Cong forces in Viet Nam. A copy of his letter was sent to the Press-Herald by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kessel Sr., who now make their home at 16710 Patronella Ave. Nov. 7, 1965 Okinawa

The Editor, Dickinson Press: Tonight while listening to the radio thousands of miles from home, I heard the announcer say the college kids are burning their draft cards in protest of the United States policy in Viet Nam. I am a United States Marine who will be leaving for Viet Nam in three days. We are going to Viet Nam to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. Some of us will die, some will return to the States to

see again the faces of people whose safety we are trying to insure.

It's hard enough to be over here on your own, let alone be over here without the support of those who we are protecting.

Democracy is a thing not to be taken for granted. Our forefathers fought for it, and we will continue to do the same thing until the day no unfriendly aggressor will dare offend us. Freedom is a heritage not a right and will remain so as long as patriotic citizens are alive.

Take a look around you, at the children, happy and healthy. Would you like to see their faces torn by war on our homeland? Look also at our prosperity, our wealth and possessions? Would you have them destroyed? Certainly not. Why then can't people realize what we are up against?

I would much rather stop an evil thing on foreign soil than have to fight it in my own backyard. All that remains to be said is God help those who weigh the facts carefully and are still unable to understand why we are taking this stand, for they are mere fools who are giving Johnnie Commie a helping hand!

PFC MIKE H. KESSEL JR.  
FPO, San Francisco, Calif.

Editor, Press-Herald:

There are several questions taxpayers should ask—now. If they wait to ask these questions it may be too late.

1. Why is the Urban Renewal Project R-93 (Meadowpark) necessary?  
2. If it goes through (without a vote of the Torrance taxpayers) how much will it cost each taxpayer in the city?

3. A ml, a hard working, ambitious taxpayer, to be really protected by law, to own property and, under Constitutional law, be covered by Article IV of the Constitution (search and seizure)?

4. How do the residents and property owners of the Meadowpark area really feel about Urban Renewal? Are they really happy after being pushed and pulled by Big Brother, city fathers, the city manager, appraisers, surveyors, research associates, the agency staff . . . you name it and they have had it?

5. How much will they finally receive in cash for their property at "fair market value"?

6. If that were me, put in the same situation, would I be truly happy with two years of abuse and end up with a paltry sum and grey hairs?

7. What will I do to keep the federal government from coming into the city (at the request of the city, without a vote of the city's taxpayers) to enforce the "rules" in order to get the money which was originally mine to begin with (income tax)?

If these questions are asked of city hall, the Redevelopment Agency (the city council), and the Redevelopment Agency staff (at 23870 Hawthorne Blvd.), you will get all types of answers. If these questions are asked of other people in other cities who have adopted Urban Renewal in one form or another, you will get completely different answers. Therefore, you will have to do some digging and answer these, and other questions yourself . . . as I have done.

Now, my biggest questions are: Prove to me that this is "something for nothing" and who is there who can deny that temporary hand-outs are a high price to pay for the loss of freedom? And just who is selling us down the river and for what purpose?

Sincerely,  
CLEORA C. JORDAN,  
4730 Macafee Road.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# 'The Fixer' a Powerful Novel of Moral Squalor

"You'd be better off confessing," Yakov Bok was told. "Confessing what?" Outside the prison, Yakov Bok had become—who would have thought it?—a public person. Even the Czar had become interested in his case. After years of imprisonment, the trial of Yakov Bok is about to begin, and in the van en route to the trial Yakov dreams he has shot the Czar. "One thing I've learned," he thinks. "There's no such thing as an unpolitical man, especially a Jew. You can't be one without the other, that's clear enough. You can't sit still and see yourself destroyed."

Basically, "The Fixer," a powerful novel by Bernard Malamud, is a study of the undefeated. It is a drama of injustice, or religious persecution, or rampant anti-Semitism in the Ukraine prior to the revolution. It is also a story of resistance to injustice that can lead to that seldom satisfactory triumph, a moral victory.

Malamud is an extraordinarily fine writer who works with style and, in this grim

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# Beer Commercial Song Shocks Aging Composer

Hamm what amm: Rudolf Friml, the historic composer of musical comedies, still lives in San Francisco, still stands on his head every morning "to activate the blood," is still happily married to his 53-year-old wife, day in December—and is still making news. . . . First item: On Sept. 7, he went to the White House to give a command performance for the President and family. . . . Second item: Some time ago, he turned on his radio and was shocked to hear the melody, "Totem Tom Tom," from his greatest hit, "Rose Marie," being used as a Hamm's Beer commercial ("From the land of sky-blue waters," etc.) In a mild rage, he called his manager, Bill Oestek, and shouted "Have you heard my song being used to sell beer? Awful! DO something!" "Maestro," replied Bill, "I was saving it as a surprise. I made a deal—you'll get \$19,000 a year for the rights" . . . After a moment's silence, Friml murmured pleasantly: "Say, it DOES have a nice lilt for a beer commercial, doesn't it?"

Clickety - Clack: Sterling Hayden's private railroad car in Sausalito, wherein he is pounding out a turn-of-the-century S.F. novel, is flanked

by a pair of enterprises odd even by Sausalito standards. On one side, the studio of Sculptor Barney West, who makes those huge tikis for Trader Vic's various restaurants. On the other side, the A. G. Schoonmaker Co., making diesel engines for the war in Viet Nam. Reality is somewhere else. . . . A native heard a scratching noise outside his window the other

day, peered out, and found a good-sized baboon climbing his drainpipe. After ascertaining that it wasn't one of his wife's relatives, he called the SPCA, which found that the baboon had escaped from S. F. General Hospital. Do you feel Medicare is going too far?

Bigger than life: John Lennon was pretty lucky. Suppose he'd said "The Beatles are more popular than Leonard Bernstein"? A reader reminds us that in Oscar Levant's "Memoirs of an Amnesiac," this passage occurs: "Relating his musical triumphs, Bernstein reported that he had been bigger than Churchill in England, bigger than de Gaulle in France, bigger than Michelangelo in Italy. When he came to Israel, he paused a moment

and then blurted out that he was 'bigger than Jesus Christ' . . . . Addendum: It was Mr. Levant who once described Bernstein as "a man who conducts, occasionally with an orchestra."

Comme see, comme saw: Over in Paris, I read somewhere, officials are so concerned over the suicide rate off the Eiffel Tower that they've erected barricades on all three levels—to no avail. The other day, a young man clambered over the 5½ ft. fence to become the 349th suicide since the Tower was opened in 1889. Our Golden Gate Bridge, a sort of horizontal Eiffel Tower, is doing much better, with 306 confirmed since it opened in 1937, thereby making it the world's barrier-free chump . . . . Confusing if international note: The late Eugene Burdick's last novel—unfinished—has been completed by his protege, John Sherlock, banging away on his typewriter in the Balearic Isles. Young Sherlock is now en route to Inch Kenneth, in the Isles of Skye, which is owned by Oakland's Jessica Mitford Treuhaft, and is for sale at \$60,000. Sherlock, already anticipating royalties, will make a bid, but the real mystery is why Jessica prefers Oakland, Calif., to a sea-girt island of her very own.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Verwoerd's Death Won't End Apartheid Problem

Lovers of human freedom everywhere would be less than human if they did not feel the world is better for the assassination of Premier Henrik Verwoerd of South Africa.

But this is a surface appearance. It is rare that an assassination solves the social problem that incited it, and Verwoerd's death certainly will not solve the inhuman racial segregation that goes by the name of apartheid.

So the man who devised a Caesarian death for Verwoerd, by stabbing, was in a futile undertaking.

More than any contemporary statesman, Henk Verwoerd was perhaps more like Adolf Hitler in his twisted view of the human society, and what to do about it. Surely, had Hitler been born a Boer and risen to power in Africa, he would have done about as Verwoerd did. Hitler had an obsession about the Jews, and about the superiority of non-Jews he called Aryans, quite analog-

ous to Verwoerd's obsession about people of color, and the superiority of white Africans.

But South Africans are not in the mainstream of world power, as were the Germans, hence the world impact of organized injustice was far less.

Verwoerd did not create out of nothing the insensate

segregation in South Africa, any more than Hitler created out of nothing insensate hatred of the Jews. Both seized a pathological rift in the human society going back over the ages, and fashioned it to their purposes. Both barred the objects of their fanatic fears and hatreds from the benefits of the communities they dominated, and both exhausted the patience of reasonable men, and because of it, finally came to violent ends.

Apartheid is a far more uncompromising segregation

than anything known in America since 1865. Blacks and Coloreds, so-called, are banished by law to compounds established for them, and may not enter white areas except to work. For this they must carry identity cards. They have a highly restricted voting right, but no right of assembly, even in small groups in their own houses, and no right of petition.

Their wages are by law less than white wages, and their institution but shadows of white institutions. If they violate these laws, they are subject to long detention without trial. When tried, they have no right of chosen counsel, and no newspaper may publish their news in defense. The law applies to whites who, for humane reasons, want to help the blacks. They too can be detained without trial, may be confined to their home indefinitely, and may not discuss their cases.

Most of these rules for living were evolved by Verwoerd and his agents in the past 15 years, and they have recently increased in severity. But Verwoerd could not have procured or enforced such laws if they did not accord with the beliefs of his white people.

We like to think of Hitler as a badman of history whose like will not be seen again. This is a delusion. Every generation produces resolute men ready to seize on ancient evils and impose them as a pattern on the human relation, and their emergence is not confined to Germans and South African whites.

Malamud's story is not about a murder, or a trial; it is about innocence in the hands of bureaucratic police, of man's fate as controlled by unenlightened officialdom. If it had not been Yakov who was accused, it would have been another Jew. In philosophical moments, he curses history, fate, occasionally even the Jews.

Malamud builds a memorable character in Yakov, unbreakable in spirit, who inhabits a nightmarish world of Dostoyevskian proportions. As a novel, this is a feat of strength, skill, and ingenuity. One becomes very close to Yakov Bok, the undefeated, in this saga of moral squalor. It leaves un- questioned the fact that Bernard Malamud is one of our most powerful writers.

Some people think if you put six poor districts together, you get a wealthy district. You don't. You get a big poor district. — Dr. Fred Kiesel, Carmichael, on school unification.

Our standard of living is greater than at any time, but is anyone content? Isn't it about time to relax a little and count our blessings? — John Stott, San Francisco.

There is a general suspicion today that if you're doing something without government money, there's something wrong with you. — Fr. Lawrence Carter, Episcopal child health clinic of Los Angeles

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